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Pumpkin patch kids
Cooper Rae, 4, sits on a pumpkin during Abbey Gardens' Fall Festival this past Saturday. /ADAM FRISK staff

Late fire chief Michael Iles honoured in Ottawa

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The late Mike Iles, former Dysart et al fire chief, was honoured in Ottawa last month, having his name added to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial during a solemn tribute.

Families and firefighters from across the country gathered at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial on Sept. 7 to honour those who lost their lives in the line of duty. Iles' name was among 140 added to the memorial this year.

"It was humbling," Chris Iles, son of the late fire chief, said in a telephone interview. "I was very honoured to be there, especially as a firefighter, and to see the hundreds of firefighters and people there, very humbling."

For those in the county, the name Mike Iles is synonymous with a legacy of quiet leadership, unwavering commitment, and profound sacrifice. For years, he was known as a dedicated employee at Curry Chevrolet in Haliburton Village, a job his

see FALLEN page 12

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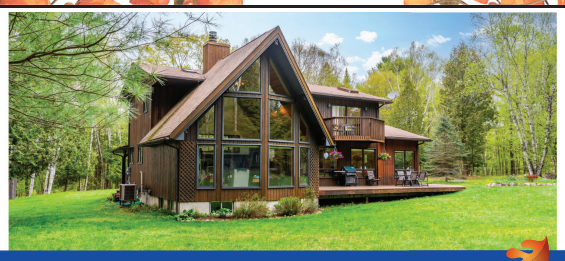

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HCDC celebrates 40 years

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While the content wasn't necessarily standard for an AGM, the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) is far from traditional.

On Oct. 2, HCDC celebrated 40 years of community contributions by opening their doors to the public at Bonnie View Inn. With over 50 in attendance, including mayors from each municipality as well as founding members of the organization, the room was abuzz with stories of success and reflections over the past 40 years.

"It's really an honour to have so many people here to celebrate our 40th anniversary," opened Patti Tallman, the executive director of HCDC. "The strength of our partnerships continues to be the cornerstone of our successes."

HCDC first took shape in 1985, under the leadership of Andy Campbell, who referenced his efforts to approach county council at the time, seeking community support. "Here we are 40 years later," he chuckled to the crowd. "We're still going strong."

The organization provides loans, community economic development funding initiatives, grants, business resources, and co-working space opportunities to local businesses and organizations.

Last year, HCDC received 54 loan applications, where 37 were approved, eight were declined, and nine were withdrawn. Of the 54 applications, 43 per cent were dedicated to start-up costs for developing businesses. "Most typical banks won't finance a business start-up," said Sara Joanu, the loans officer for the organization.

With the fiscal year ending in March 2025, it was noted that the total value of the investment portfolio for HCDC was $23,860,057. "Out of the 267 CFDCs (Community Future Development Corporations) across Canada, HCDC holds the largest portfolio," said Joanu to the cheers of the crowd.

Since inception in 1985, HCDC has dispersed 2,410 loans, totalling $115,338,139.

"But what we do at HCDC is more than numbers," said Joanu, noting the jobs created, the community support offered, and the opportunity to strengthen the future for families in Haliburton County.

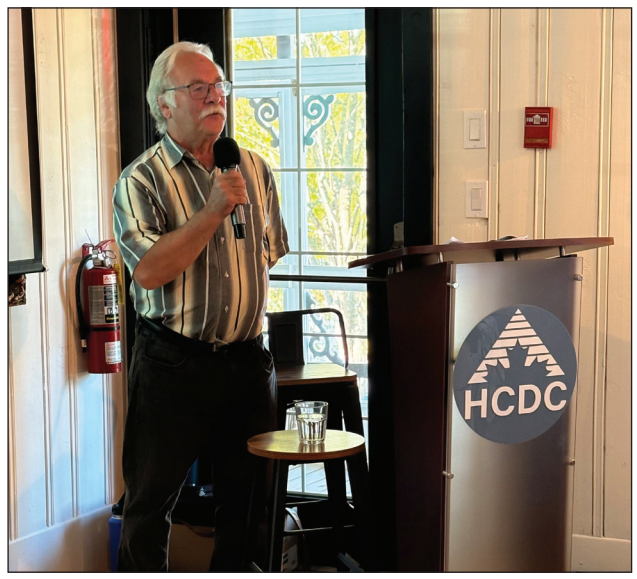
Elisha Barlow, the program and operations coordinator, spoke to the successes of the Local Initiatives Program (LIP), which at the end of the fiscal year had worked on 24 projects with 103 partners, and disbursed $65,787 through the program. The LIP program is celebrating their ten year anniversary this year, which has dispersed $610,440 over the past decade.

HCDC staff welcomed a number of guest speakers to the AGM, kicking off with County Warden Dave Burton. "It's an absolute privilege to be here today," opened Burton. "The impact (of HCDC) goes beyond business. They have strengthened the fabric of our region," he said.

Burton was followed by Malcom Cockwell, the managing director of Haliburton Forest. Cockwell was tapped into speaking through the many projects that the Forest and HCDC have embarked on over the years. "I always appreciate the chance to be here," said Cockwell. "The institution has been so helpful to us over the years."

Cockwell spoke to business successes and downfalls of the Forest from the past year, including a rise in tourism but a notable decline in forestry needs. "We're in a cyclical sector, though," he said, noting that he expects the pendulum to swing the other way as time goes on.

Since 2017, Cockwell noted that the organization is ten times the size it was nearly a decade ago. With 350 employees across the region, including over 100 full-time staff specifically at the Haliburton site, the impressive employer was proud to boast on the successes of the organization.



Founding executive director Andy Campbell addressed the crowd at HCDC's 40th anniversary last week. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

But he noted three major conversational items that have come up in recent history: forest fires, climate change, and tariffs.

For forest fires, while news agencies are quick to spread awareness around the topic, he noted that it's "not the sort of thing that keeps us up at night." Haliburton Forest wood differs from other northern forests that are more prone to fires, and while he advised caution, he was not stressed on the matter.

As for climate change, Cockwell took a different approach. "I'm tired of hearing about climate change," he said. "What we really need to start talking about is invasive species."

Cockwell shared that the threat of invasive pests is all too real, and it's a growing concern that they are navigating on a daily basis at Haliburton Forest. "I cannot emphasize this enough," he urged, "this is absolutely the biggest environmental challenge we are facing in our region, and it's preventable."

Lastly, Cockwell spoke to the ever-changing dynamics of our relationship with the U.S., in light of ongoing tariff talks and continued political uncertainty. He noted that the direct impact on the business has been difficult to quantify, but what he can confirm is that they have expanded their operations overseas significantly, and while many of their American partners have dropped off, international relationships have been forged and cemented.

Tammy Rea followed Cockwell, to discuss the impacts that HCDC had on "one small idea" that started to take shape many years ago. It was for the development of a film project, which welcomed blossoming filmmakers to develop their trade. Rea cited an impressive list of practicing filmmakers who found their footing through the program, and went on to showcase their talents with the world. "That was all from one LIP grant in 2006," she closed. "The ripple effect is huge."

The special guest portion of the day was closed off by Barb Bolin, who had been on the HCDC board for over 20 years. "I want to talk about Jim Blake," opened Bolin. "A colleague, a voice of reason, and a friend."

Blake retired from his role as economic development consultant earlier in the year, and Bolin listed a plethora of organizations and ideas that had Blake at the root of development. "I think it's fair to say that every not-for-profit in the county has been touched by Jim Blake in some way," she said. "Jim has always reminded us that process matters."

Noting leadership, strategic planning, and business incubation in his bailiwick of skills, to name a few, Bolin celebrated Blake, and the many contributions he has made to the community over the years.

HCDC is planning a series of workshops and community programs offered in the coming weeks. Information on the services offered by the organization can be found at www.haliburtoncdc.ca.

Tallman and the staff at HCDC celebrated the involved partners, the board, and the many community members who support the services offered. "As a dedicated team, we are passionate about the work we do," she said. "Whether we're supporting entrepreneurs, strengthening not-for-profit organizations, or helping small businesses grow, our commitment is guided by a genuine desire to make a lasting impact."

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Atrocities of residential schools difficult to digest for students

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

As communities marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation last week, some students said learning about the residential school system had been difficult to digest.

The focus at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for Orange Shirt Day was on education, truth-telling, and laying the groundwork for a better future.

The annual commemoration, observed on September 30, is an opportunity for students to reflect on the painful legacy of residential schools and understand their ongoing impact.

"This is our history as Canadians," HHSS leadership teacher Christine Carr said in an interview.

The local teacher said it's essential for her students to understand that progress towards reconciliation requires an accurate understanding of the facts.

"If we want to work towards any form of reconciliation, we need to know what happened, and we need to know the truth, and be able to face that in order to then try and improve for the future," she said.

The school has been committed to annual educational programming for the day, which has previously included story walks. This year was a screening of a CBC documentary about an Indigenous woman capturing her grandmother's story of surviving a residential school before it was too late.

Carr did note that it's a challenge for her at times to help the students feel connected to history.

"Sometimes they feel like it's distant from them, like it doesn't touch them," she said. "So it's more of helping them see how this impacts them as Canadians and their connection to the history and to what's still happening today."

Students echoed their teacher's sentiment and explained that it's a necessity that we confront the past.

"The whole residential school thing is a big part of our history that can't be ignored," Sadie Kelly said. "We have to acknowledge that our ancestors have done these things to people who were very integral in forming this country that we call home now."

Another student admitted that the information can be difficult to absorb.

"A lot of people died. And people were tortured. And a lot of kids as well," Isabelle Horner-Xerri said. "A lot of things happened that are really real, kind of dark things, that matter to the point it's kind of difficult to learn about."

A third student simply stated, "It's part of our history."

"It's important to learn about the bad things that happened so we can reconcile and make things right," Graham Backus said. "I don't think we'll ever make things right. But recognizing and making a day out of it and teaching it to our youth."

The students acknowledged the difficulty of learning about the suffering inflicted on children in the residential school system, but agreed that facing the truth, no matter how unsettling, was a necessary step for Canadians working towards a more informed future.

Housing summit to focus on local progress, builder hurdles

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The fourth annual Haliburton County Housing Summit is set to take place later this month, and will focus on the progress of local housing and some of the obstacles builders have to overcome to complete their work.

The all-day event, which will take place in Minden on Oct. 16, aims to keep a "finger on the pulse" of the local housing situation and will focus on progress and the difficulties overcome by those on the front lines of affordable housing.

A core component of the summit will be a "bricks and mortar guys" panel, which will feature six or seven builders who will offer a look at the myriad of difficulties that complicate and delay housing projects.

"The rule is that we celebrate the positive. We do not talk about what are the problems. We talk about what progress have we made towards solving the problems," Places for People founder Fay Martin said in a Sept. 30 interview.

There will be a focus on educating the public about the challenges that make the business "really difficult." Summit-goers will hear firsthand accounts, including one project that took seven years in the making, detailing the regulatory, logistical, and financial "villains" that slow the process or, in some cases, "kill it entirely." The goal is to build understanding and temper criticism of the pace of development, Martin explained.

Another panel is planned to focus on the "boots on the ground people," the local workers who support the unhoused or precariously housed residents in the community, Martin said. The discussion will highlight the challenges faced by local service deliverers, whose agencies are often run by out-of-county bosses who "don't necessarily understand the circumstances" in Haliburton County.

The summit will also feature high-impact keynote speakers.

The opening keynote will be delivered by an academic from the University of Waterloo, who has produced a 90-minute documentary on genuinely affordable housing across Canada. Brian Doucet's film, *Thinking Beyond the Market* will be screened the preceding evening. The documentary showcases examples of communities that have matched resources to need through persistent and creative means.

The summit wraps with a look at a success story out of Kitchener. Philanthropic entrepreneurs Joe and Stephanie Mancini will share how they have acquired 18 properties in downtown Kitchener for housing and service delivery, creating a system that can facilitate new development by offering space to new initiatives.

The event at the Minden Hills Community Centre is free and open to the public. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with the summit starting at 9:00 a.m and ending around 4 p.m.

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Take a library trip this fall

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) has rolled out a brand new initiative that encourages everyone to see the beautiful spectrum of fall colours on our trees this year.

The HCPL's Fall Library Passport Challenges started on Sept. 16 and will continue until Oct. 31. Every HCPL branch will have Fall Passports that visitors can pick up.

Each library location will also have a special sticker that you can affix to your passport.

When you visit each library, there will be a fall-themed activity that visitors may take part in. While you are there, staff challenge you to find the hidden bookworm at every branch and share why you love your public library with others. There will also be rotating book displays, children's activities, and regularly scheduled programming that you can plan your visits around.

"I enjoy seeking new initiatives to offer our community members and the passport program was really the collaboration of multiple branch staff members thinking how we wish the public could see how big and beautiful our library system is," said Shawna Gamblen, programming and outreach coordinator for HCPL. "Especially in the fall and the idea of a passport to see them all was born."

In a world where our attention is being drawn at every step by technology, having a physical passport that you can keep becomes a special tool.

"A physical passport makes the experience tangible and memorable - it's something residents can carry, show off, and be reminded of between visits," said Gamblen. "Adding a gamified element like collecting stamps turns library use into a fun challenge that encourages people to explore multiple branches, discover new services, and feel a sense of achievement. For the community, it creates excitement and connection; for the library, it boosts engagement and showcases all that the system has to offer."

Every branch of the HCPL has something special to offer guests.

The Highland Grove branch of the HCPL is featured on the front cover of the Fall Passport. Tucked into a colourful hillside, the Highland Grove branch hosts the Savouring Stories live cooking program.

The Minden Hills branch is located beside the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, sharing the same roof. Gamblen says that by this proximity, the environment fosters a vibrant hub for art, culture, and learning.

The Dysart branch overlooks Head Lake Park, making it the perfect place to check out a book and read outside, says Gamblen.

"Every branch has its own charm, and together they showcase the stunning landscapes and natural beauty that make our county such a wonderful place to read, learn, and connect," said Gamblen."

The HCPL Fall Passport Program is open to all ages. An additional benefit to the passport program would be visitors making a day trip out of the program, visiting restaurants, local stores, and other tourist attractions. Places that you may not have visited yet around Haliburton County.

The library has eight locations across the county. These locations include Cardiff, Dorset, Gooderham, Haliburton, Highland Grove, Minden Hills, Stanhope and Wilberforce.

When completing your passport, staff have asked to use the hashtag #FallForHCPL on all your social media sites.

"The entire county is so photogenic right now with the beautiful colours," said Gamblen. "I am hoping it will spark a community pride and connection by showing how people across the county are 'falling for' their library together."

Once your Fall Passport is completed, you will be entered to win a cozy prize pack, filled with all the wonderful fall essentials.

The HCPL would like to thank Rexall Haliburton, Country Pickins, Master's Book Store, and Foodland Haliburton for their support of this new program.

Fall colours by Debi Ireland

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Big changes coming to Minden sledding trails

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The snowmobiling trails will be looking a little different in Haliburton County this year. Recently, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) announced that they will be making cost saving cuts to 5,000 kilometres of trails and 50 groomers across Ontario. The OFSC specifically wants to target snowmobiling trails that have dead ends, are parallel routes, and have low usage.

After reviewing and considering the OFSC's request, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) has made the decision to remove 42 kilometres of trail. The trail that is getting the axe is TOP B112 northbound. The trail will no longer be available from Fleming Road in Minden northerly across Highway 118 to TOP B west of Pine Springs.

"Historically, you could drive the B112 North end to end," said Neil Vanderstoop, president of the HCSA.

Vanderstoop says that after decades of being torn up by side-by-sides and Jeeps, the trail has become unmanageable for the HCSA. In the past, the club has spent nearly $50,000 to rebuild a bridge along the trail.

"It's one of my favourite trails," said Vanderstoop solemnly. "It is getting to the point that without major funding we felt we could keep up with it."

Vanderstoop is remaining hopeful for the trail, saying that there has been talks with the Jeep association and other organizations to work together in repairing the bridge over Anson Creek.

"Some trails may reopen next year," said Vanderstoop.

For those familiar with the trails, the former Trail 4 will now be renamed TOP B112.

The HCSA is dedicated to keep snowmobile riders driving through Minden in order to supply the restaurants and other businesses with customers during the winter.

"The county club was the brainchild of our forefathers to create winter time business opportunities," said Vanderstoop.

As for the former B112 trail section?

"It will be like it never existed," said Vanderstoop.

While the HCSA will do their due diligence in putting up signage that the trail is no longer available, all signage along the trail itself will be removed. There will be no indication that the trail was there.

While the former B112 trail is known as a solemn and quiet trail, there are a few riders who were die-hard fans and will greatly miss it. Vanderstoop also says that the trail has fortunately been able to open every year in the past few years.

As with all snowmobiling clubs in Ontario, the OFSC will shut down a trail if it has not been groomed in the past two years. While the HCSA has kept up, even with lending out their groomers last year, they have been forced to make the decision to cut back.

"It was a very lonely trail," said Vanderstoop. "Once you were out there, you were really out there."

Requiring at least two good snowfalls, Vanderstoop says that the erosion on the trail has made things very difficult. The trail got a good amount of snowfall. So much so, that it made it hard for ice to form.

"You can't have snowmobiling without volunteers and you can't have volunteers without people buying trail passes," said Vanderstoop.

One biggest factor in the recent changes to Ontario snowmobiling clubs is due to the Ministry of Transportation denying the club-approved trail permit fee increase. With soaring operational costs and not enough funding to support them, they have been forced to make cutbacks that will be affecting all snowmobile clubs across Ontario. Nearby neighbours, the Paudash Trail Blazers have eliminated three of their trails and shortened three others.

"I don't know why people are surprised by this," said Vanderstoop.

The HCSA remains dedicated to their ridership and are confident that they will have a stellar year. Last year, one weekend clocked around 1,000 snowmobile riders driving along the rail trail.

Vanderstoop says that as hard as it is to believe, the people counting the riders did not even come out on one of their busiest weekends.

This year, Vanderstoop says that the HCSA groomers will be running six days a week. For now, their biggest hurdles are making sure that they have permission from homeowners and making sure they are not in the line of fire of hunters.

Just know that even if you do not own a snowmobile, you can still join the club and assist with maintaining the trails.

At this year's 2025 OFSC AGM, President Vanderstoop won the regional award for communicating to the community.

"Barely a day went by without Neil doing something promoting snowmobiling and how it drives Haliburton's fragile winter economy," writes the club's Sept. 16 Facebook post. Notably, Vanderstoop was recognized for his radio program "Trail Talk" and his consistent communication with local newspaper publications. From appearing in the Santa Claus parade to his presence at the HCSA's pop up tents throughout the year, Vanderstoop is an all around great advocate for snowmobiling in Haliburton County.

Trail permits went on sale on Oct. 1 and will be available at a reduced rate until Dec. 1. Permits can be purchased at permits/ofsc.on.ca. When purchasing your permit, please indicate that Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is your home sledding club.

SALC programs help seniors stay active as winter chill approaches

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

As the days grow shorter and winter approaches, the municipality's Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) programs provide a way for residents to stay active and remain connected.

Finding ways for seniors to stay active and socially connected indoors during the fading days of autumn and winter's shorter daylight hours, SALC is proving to be an essential resource for keeping older residents moving and socializing.

The programs are offered to those residents who are 55 years of age or older. The SALC programming was established in July and is a collaborative effort between the County of Haliburton, local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and local partners. The goal of the program is to provide accessible social and recreational opportunities and to help lower the risk of seasonal isolation among the aging population.

Dysart offers seniors cardio and balance classes every Friday from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena. There are also board and card games offered twice a month, on Thursdays at the Harcourt community centre from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, explained that the programs offered by the municipality are free for participants, but a donation is always welcome. The donations help fund further programs, she said.

The fitness program on Fridays is among the most popular events on the calendar, with close to a dozen people participating each week. Georgia Shank, certified senior fitness instructor, works to provide modifications to suit the needs of individuals to get moving, and chairs are available for those wishing to exercise from a chair.

As the full SALC calendar offers a variety of programs at locations across Haliburton County, local seniors are encouraged to check the schedule. Whether it's moving their body or simply sharing a laugh over cards, the SALC program is committed to helping older adults stay vibrant, healthy, and connected. For more information, visit haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC.

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The right to strike

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

AS I type this, there are two known major strikes happening in the community. The college support staff have been picketing for over two weeks, and last week, Canada Post announced once again that they are taking a hiatus until conditions are improved and workplace security is guaranteed.

And while it may seem that strikes only impact a select few that hover in the bubbles around the picketers, in reality - especially in a small town - strikes play a part in the existence of many day-to-day activities.

For the college strike, that impacts Fleming CREW and local academic upgrading; an absolutely crucial service for the many individuals between jobs as the seasons shift. These closures have a trickle-down effect that washes over the community as a whole. For the postal strike, few organizations are quite as impacted as local newspapers: our readers, our subscribers, our regulars are noticing empty mailboxes this week. No one is happy with that. We will lose more than just money over this strike.

And while I have heard some mumble and grumble about 'getting back to work,' shouldn't we all have the right to strike? To stand up for fair wages, safe working conditions, and job security?

Now I recognize that there is a clear-cut line between those pro-union and anti-union. You are entitled to whatever side of that coin you land on.

But when I explained the strike to my kids, leaving out the many, many acronyms and political differentiations, they grasped the concept remarkably fast.

"Why wouldn't they ask for what they need?" they pondered. "Why wouldn't they communicate that?"

It's a great question. And they have every right to do just that.

Because while strikes often get murky when it comes to who is speaking, who is talking, who is listening, who is acting, at the core of the cause, is basic human dignity. We spend the vast majority of our adult lives tied to a career. A position that is the reason our alarm clocks go off in the mornings, the reason the occasional holiday concert is missed, the reason our bills are paid and our mortgages tick forward.

But what if we don't like that career? What if we are giving to it, more than it is giving to us? What if we don't feel that we're being treated safely, fairly, securely?

Then we walk away.

But sometimes, in the case of the colleges in particular, they don't want to walk away. They realize that their absence has an impact on budding students, on eager workers, and committed creators. If they're not there for them, who will be?

So suddenly, they're stuck. Do they stick to a career that doesn't value them, or do they walk away?

Each and every person who commits to a career deserves basic human dignity, and it's up to them to voice that to those who may not see them (or their working conditions) on a regular basis.

And while we have the right to strike, here is to hoping that through mediation and prioritizing people over productivity, security over sales, and dignity over dollars, the parties can find a middle ground that appeases all involved.

Otherwise, they will walk away.

Producerism: the process

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

"THE TRADITION of producerism seeks civic virtue through the habit of useful daily work that contributes to community growth." So says Joe Mancini in *Transition to Common Work: Building Community at The Working Centre*, published in 2015.

That's 100 years after Ralph Chaplin wrote *Solidarity Forever*, in which he says "They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn/But without our mind and muscle not a single wheel could turn."

And that's 100 years after Byron Shelley, following the massacre of striking workers, wrote 'Shake your chains to earth like dew…Ye are many, they are few."

Labour unrest is among us again. For good reason: the value of labour has become detached from the value of labourers.

Producerism is a process for reversing that trend. A society - our society - that uses consumerism to locate people in the pecking order - those who have much are more valued than those who have little - is also a society that has plundered the planet to the brink of destruction (we hope the brink; we hope we've not tipped over the edge). It's unsustainable, to use the word that is a whip driving business to bigger bigger bigger which presumably is then, hmm, too big to fail? Because failure of behemoths will bring the world as we know it to an end.

Yes. We had a whiff of that when in July 2022 the telecommunication system of Rogers failed and left twelve million people off line for fifteen hours, causing mayhem and consternation. We experienced it locally during the 2025 ice storm when communication systems were down for days.

And therefore we quail and fail to cut the behemoths down to size, and continue to tremble in fear at our vulnerability. Whether their power is economic or political (is there a difference?) we allow these bullies to trample the earth like a raging T-Rex. Why? Because it's not our job? Because they're too big and scary? Because they know everything about us? Maybe because we don't see an alternative.

Shake your chains! We are many, they are few! If we rename and reclaim our labour, and use it for the common good, we will slay the dragon. We will render the behemoths irrelevant. If we redirect our energy to the part of the world that we can own and take care of, we won't need the behemoths to thrive. Without our input, both as producers and consumers, they will shrivel.

Producerism is not the antithesis of consumerism. In fact, it's the other end of the dialectical stick. That is, the two co-exist on the same plane, they are two sides of the same coin, they give meaning and purpose to each other. The magic is in finding the balance between the two ends, a moving target, as it should be.

If we integrate producing and consuming in a world small enough to be comprehensible, we gain a sense of control, along with a sense of humility as we bump into that which we cannot control. Managing the tension between acting and being acted upon, certainty and uncertainty, will restore balance in our lives and on our planet. Tucking into our smaller world is also probably our wisest plan for surviving the economic and political upheaval that is upon us.

This change requires that we rename and reclaim our labour as not just that which is paid. We flirted with this when the pandemic ruptured the work world and we had to redefine and reconsider work-life balance. We rediscovered work-life integration by folding laundry while taking a business call, and walking down the hall was the commute to work.

The definitive change will require embracing producerism, the integration of work with the people who produce and consume that work, who collectively own the process as well as the product. We will learn (relearn: children are born knowing it) that work is life. Work is purpose. Work is joy. Work is competence. Work is pride. Work is loving and caring and grieving and celebrating – all the emotional complexity and wonder of becoming/being a human being.

Joe Mancini and his wife Stephanie, who for five decades have been labouring in Kitchener to create a network of organizations called The Working Centre that valourizes producerism, the coming together of what is made, who makes it, and how it is used in the community to advance the common good, are closing speakers at the upcoming HalCo Housing Summit – Oct. 16, Minden Hills Rec. Centre. You're invited.

points of view

Closer than you think

Steve Galea

Loon Tales

I was recently watching a video about shooting when one of the presenters said something very important. Her exact words were, "If you place a smaller and larger target at the same range, the smaller target always appears to be much farther away."

I'm not going to say that this was one of those eureka moments. But I will tell you that it was then and there that I realized that an enterprising small man could find many ways to take advantage of this.

For instance, if a bear was chasing me, instead of making myself big – which is not exactly a winning strategy for a guy who is 5-foot-3 – I could just run to someone much taller than me and then stand beside them.

The bear would then take a look at the two of us and, instead of pursuing me, would turn on the bigger human who appears to be a whole lot closer.

This, of course, is a purely hypothetical scenario. I would never actually do such a thing because a) it's not a nice thing to do to another person, and b) especially when they are in third grade.

Besides, there are other ways to make the most of this.

For one thing, I could hire myself out to realtors. I could be very useful when they are trying to sell vacant lots. When a client asks them how big the property is, the realtors could direct me to walk to the farthest end and stand there. They could then say, "See Steve, way over there. He's at the property line."

In response, the potential buyer would say, "Who knew an eighth of an acre was so big?" And, no doubt, a deal would be struck.

Likewise, they could have me stand on the far side of a 400-square-foot house to make potential buyers think it was roomier and had cathedral ceilings.

This illusion also explains a lot for me personally.

For instance, now I understand why people are constantly raising their voices at me. I used to think it was because they thought I was hard of hearing. But now I realize that it is more likely because they think I'm 40 yards away!

This also explains why, when I used to play sports, my teammates were always throwing footballs, basketballs, and baseballs way over my head.

I explained all this to Jenn the other day and she was a bit dubious of my claims.

Her exact words were, "Given this conversation, I find it hard to believe that they missed your head very often …"

She was also not buying the part about me appearing farther away than a bigger person standing next to me. She went on to say that people, or bears for that matter, would not be tricked this way because this is something that happens all the time and I'd have to be the size of a GI-Joe for it to work.

Then she pointed out that I was more Cabbage Patch doll-sized.

All this is easy for her to say because she's 5-foot-9 and has never experienced this sort of optical illusion. So naturally, she looks at it from a very different perspective.

Even so, I cannot agree with her on this.

Then again, she doesn't appear to be too far off.

pic *of the* past

Bill Fry dropped off this image of a class photo from the Eagle Lake Public School, circa the late 1950s. The names of the students are listed along the bottom of the photo. /submitted

Presence

Lynda Shadbolt

Green meadow

Tales from the great

THE GREATEST gift you can give someone or a task is your "presence." Your undivided full attention. It says "I love you or I really care about what I am doing." When we are fully present, focused and listening or responding we are saying to the person or the job that it matters and that you care.

In yoga and Qigong, we practice being present in every class. And it is a practice. Sometimes it›s easy. Sometimes very difficult. If we play the piano or sing we practice in order to get good at it. It makes sense that we have to practice being present in order to get good at it.

Instructions for becoming present are simple, but the practice isn't. We are all easily distracted these days, through no fault of our own. Many of us are distracted regularly by our phones, our social media, our computers as well as the rest of life. We are good at multitasking. It's easy for our minds to be churning around and around. It is easy to be distracted.

This is why it's important to unplug on a regular basis, to pause and be fully wherever you are. Present to your breath, or sounds around you, or the ground beneath you. We bring awareness to what is going on at the moment. When you are doing the dishes, just do the dishes.

So here is why I am telling this story. Last weekend I parked my car and walked to the grocery store to get some groceries. I went for one thing and came out with six things, and no bag to carry them. My arms were full. At the last moment I saw a fresh Ontario apple and was so happy I grabbed one and as I walked back to my car I was enjoying the apple, taking in the beauty of the day and carrying my groceries in a haphazard way. To make a long story short, I was happily day dreaming and not paying attention when I tripped over a hitch sticking out the back of a truck. My fall was spectacular and I twisted my neck, banged my shoulder, bruised my hip and sent my groceries flying.

I laid on the curb and took a moment to assess that I hadn't broken anything. A kind man helped me and I hurried home to a warm bath and a gentle massage from my husband. We all do these things and we all have the capacity to be distracted. The first step to becoming present is pausing, taking a breath and doing whatever you are going to do fully present. Whether it is to listen to someone, or drive your car to the store. It only takes a moment for something to happen when we aren't paying attention. And as I laid on the ground I thought "why didn't I just take the time to sit and enjoy the apple?" This didn't need to happen. This story goes out to the driver I saw texting the other day. It only takes a moment for something bad to happen. When you drive, just drive.

OPP investigating fatal collision

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a fatal collision on Highway 118 in Haliburton County, north of Carnarvon.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025, at approximately 11:40 a.m., members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment responded to a serious collision involving a motorcycle and a transport truck. The impact caused the truck to catch fire, which was extinguished by fire services at the scene. The driver and passenger of the motorcycle, a 64-year-old female and a 79-year-old male, were pronounced deceased at the scene.

The OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement (TIME) team is assisting with the ongoing investigation and Highway 118, east of Carnarvon, is currently closed between Tulip Road and the 25th Line. The public is advised to avoid the area and plan alternate routes as the closure is expected to be lengthy.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage from the area at the time of the incident is asked to contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Submitted

Dorset library temporarily closed for maintenance, limited library services

The Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL), located in the Dorset Recreation Centre, is currently closed for repairs to address water damage, with limited services available. It is estimated that the closure will last approximately two weeks.

Library patrons can return materials at the Dorset Recreation Centre's front desk and in the library book drop box, and participate in fall library programming in the meeting room located across from the library on the lower level of the Dorset Recreation Centre, specifically:

- Genealogy for Seniors on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Frankentoys on Saturday on Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Mini Pumpkin Needle Felting on Friday, Oct. 31 from 1 - 2 p.m.

The Fall Craft Drop-In program on Saturday, Oct. 11 has been cancelled.

The library's public computer, printer and copier, will not be available during the library closure, nor will patrons be able to pick up holds or access the library to browse materials. Library patrons may experience delays or disruptions across the HCPL system when placing a hold on an item housed at the Dorset branch.

Given the closure, the Fall Library Passport Challenge has been adjusted to remove the Dorset branch as a required branch visit. Rather than eight library locations, participants simply need to visit seven HCPL branches to complete their passport. Patrons can obtain a stamp at other HCPL locations to complete their passport by Oct. 31.

The Dorset branch officially opened on Oct. 25, 2024. It is a 683-square foot space on the lower level of the Dorset Recreation Centre, located at 1051 Main Street in Dorset, Ontario. It is HCPL's eighth branch within the county, and its second branch within the Township of Algonquin Highlands. The Township of Algonquin Highlands is responsible for maintenance and repairs at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

About Haliburton County Public Library

With eight library branches across the County, Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) offers free public access to information, resources, programs, spaces, and services to meet the lifelong learning and literacy needs of residents and visitors. HCPL plays a critical role in maintaining strong and healthy communities, for example, by offering free WiFi, public computers and printers, as well as educational and literacy programs for people of all ages.

Submitted

Point in Time secures land for new Youth & Family Hub in county

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents is proud to announce the purchase of 5219 County Road 21, Haliburton, for the future Youth & Family Hub- a transformative project that will expand access to vital services for children, youth, young adults, and families across Haliburton County.

"This is a once-in-a-generation investment in our community," said Marg Cox, Executive Director of Point in Time. "By securing this key location - less than one kilometre from the high school and centrally located - we have taken the first step toward creating a single facility where children, youth, and families can access the care, connection, and opportunities they need to thrive."

The purpose-built Hub will bring together a wide range of supports under one roof, including:

- Early childhood programs
- Recreation and wellness opportunities
- Parenting supports
- Employment services
- Skills and well-being activities
- Mental health/substance use help and primary care

Why It Matters

- 70 per cent of mental health challenges begin before age 18 (Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC)).
- One in five children under 12 in Ontario experience a diagnosable mental health disorder, but fewer than one-third receive specialized care.
- 60 per cent of youth say they would use a hub – rising to 75 per cent among those with a diagnosed mental health issue (MHCC, Bell Let's Talk Survey)

The current Youth Hub is at capacity: visits have more than doubled in the last five years.

40 per cent of parents report they would not tell anyone, including their family doctor, if their child was experiencing a mental health problem (MHCC). Youth Hubs break down barriers by offering walk-in services in a safe, welcoming space. The new Youth & Family Hub will provide children and families with easier access to support, building resilience and brighter futures in a location that is easily accessible for all. "The location was extremely important," said Cox. "We need to meet children, youth, and families where they are, and co-create programs, services and supports with youth. Haliburton County youth input is vital."

Next Steps

With land now secured, Point in Time will move forward with planning, design, community consultations, and community-wide fundraising to support construction of this exciting new facility.

"Now it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work," added Cox.

About Point in Time

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to supporting the well-being of children, youth, and families in Haliburton County. Through counseling, early years programming, youth outreach, and family supports, Point in Time strengthens community connections and helps young people thrive. (pointintime.ca)

For more information, contact Marg Cox at margc@pointintime.ca, 705-854-0645.

Submitted

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

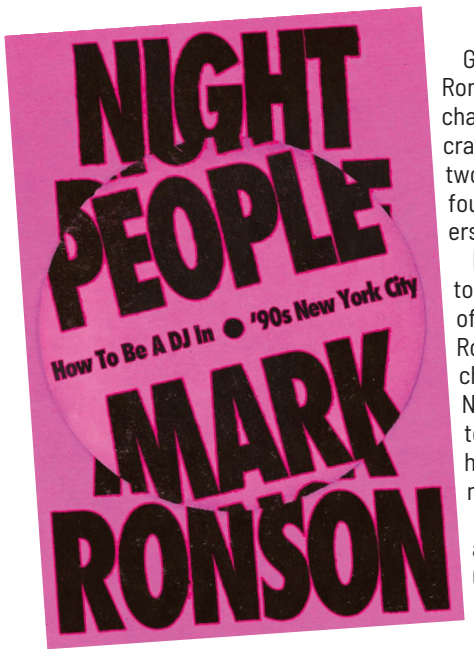
Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Memories

Colour photograph of S.S. No. 6 Lutterworth, a one-room school with students gathered at the entrance. Please note that there is a preserved No. 9 Stanhope Schoolhouse at the Heritage Village in Minden. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



Growing up in New York City, Mark Ronson was drawn to the pulse of nightlife, chasing legendary DJs, digging through crates, and hustling gig after gig with just two turntables and a mixer. In the clubs, he found a community of artists and dreamers who, like him, lived for the night.

From crowded downtown dance floors to the studios where he shaped some of the past two decades' biggest hits, Ronson traces his journey through the chaotic, transformative world of 1990s New York. Night People is both a love letter to a vanished scene and the story of how a restless teenager became one of music's most influential producers.

Night People by Mark Ronson is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

ASES commits to knowing better, growing better

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The full chain fence made by students of all ages at ASES during their week of studying Truth and Reconciliation. /submitted

For most of the country, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation lasts one single day. We wear our orange shirts and take bits and pieces out of our days to reflect, remember, reconcile.

But for Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES), they wanted to make it last longer. "Saying sorry is more than a word, it is meant to be followed by actions," said Laurie Kempel, a teacher at the school. "ASES Wildcats will spread messages that teach us that telling the truth, although difficult, is how we learn and grow. That reconciliation means to say sorry, not for what 'we' have done, but to say sorry about what was done."

Staff at the school committed to a full week of lessons around the theme of truth and reconciliation, with the ongoing encouragement of "when we know better, we grow better."

Kempel broke the week down into a question posed for each day, with Monday kicking off with: "Why do we even have this day?" The day unfolded with preliminary talks about the history of Truth and Reconciliation Day, or, commonly known as Orange Shirt Day for the students. Each class was given bunches of orange paper strips with classroom-appropriate resources to access throughout the week.

On Tuesday, the question posed was: "That happened a long time ago. I wasn't there, so why should I care?" Kempel noted that the focus of the day was how compassion is healing. In their orange shirts, staff and students gathered together to form a heart shape outside the front of the school.

On Wednesday, the school discussed "What happened is too sad to think and talk about."

Big feelings, big conversations. "Not speaking the truth is why so many Canadians did not know about residential schools, and its part in our Canadian history," said Kempel, noting that while the conversations can be heavy, she encouraged students to explore their history through art, stories, and asking questions. At this point, the orange strips of paper that the students received on Monday were starting to be linked together, connecting the classrooms across the school.

On Thursday, the theme was "There are no schools like that today, so it's not a problem anymore." Kempel noted that these questions all stemmed from thoughts and ideas the students have expressed over the years, so it is important to address each one. "So much was lost; family connections, language and culture," she said. "Collectively as a country we need to bring back lost connections, lost languages and culture, and to celebrate who we are as Canadians today and who we want to be tomorrow. When we know better, we grow better."

Slowly but surely, the paper chain was getting longer … By Friday, staff as ASES wrapped up the educational week, with the final theme of "It's the end of Truth and Reconciliation week. It's done. It's over. I'm going home." Kempel noted that the kids are allowed to go home, and how that differed from the many students sent to residential schools. She hopes that by presenting this drastic clash, students will be aware of how far society has come, and how difficult life was at residential schools.

At this point, all classes had completed their orange paper chain, and all were connected with the theme of "when we know better, we grow better …" symbolizing the knowledge they gained through the week, and the growth they have established in the community. "The whole school paper chain will be held up for all to see, and taken to the far side of our school that faces Bobcaygeon Road," said Kempel. "Left for our community to see and reflect upon."

Each chain link was made by a student at ASES, acknowledging the significance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Those Other movies
Thursday, October 9
BLUE SKY JO
Drama (subtitled)
Juliette Bharucha
Gildor Roy
$10 cash only
4:15 & 7:15 pm
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
www.ThoseOtherMovies.com
Bring cash to reserve your HIFF pass

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https://www.watercoloursbygordjones.com
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Fall is in the air

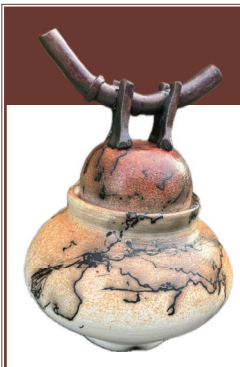
Henry O'Reilly and his mother, Emily, play some pumpkin tic-tac-toe during Abbey Gardens' Fall Festival on Saturday. /ADAM FRISK staff

Coleson, Bennett and Brielle decorate cookies at Abbey Gardens' Fall Festival.

Exploring local studios

A fall favourite, The Haliburton County Studio Tour took place this past weekend, with dozens of local artists opening their doors to the public and welcoming visitors to explore their crafts. The Studio Tour will continue over Thanksgiving weekend. For additional photos, see next week's papers. Pictured, artist Brad Millman shows his work. /TIM YANO staff photographer

StudioRose



www.studiorosepottery.com
705-286-3383 or 705-754-5099
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studiorose@yahoo.com
Come and see exciting demonstrations of the centuries-old Raku process. As well as stunning functional pieces.
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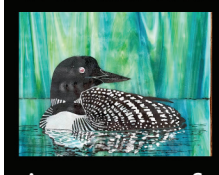

THE Studio TOUR HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
STUDIO "N"

ivycottagefusionarts.com
(705)455-2744

Studio C
ING Studios
Isabel Neveu-Geene & David Geene
Contemporary Ceramics & Urban Abstract Paintings
Visit the father daughter duo at:
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Brad Millman
Guest Artist
Studio B
1128 Argillite Rd

1040 MOOREFIELD ACRES LANE, ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS STUDIO E
416 795 7849 | earthsbeauty.ca | myearthsbeauty@gmail.com

Heat-Line leadership changes hands

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's time for the next generation of Heat-Line leadership to take the reins.

In a press release launched on Sept. 22, the Algonquin Highlands based business announced that they have appointed Matthew Roberts as president, Brent Heise as vice president of sales and technology, and Laura Roberts as vice president of quality management. Co-founders Lorne Heise and Robin Heise continue in strategic roles as vice president of product development and innovation and vice president of finance, respectively.

"These appointments mark the transition to the next generation of the founding family," says the release. "Brent and Laura are the children of the co-founders, and Matthew is their son-in-law."

"It was such a natural transition," said Jennifer Posti, the marketing manager for Heat-Line, during a recent online interview. "They have been acting as a leadership team for many years together, but with an active transition, it will cement that."

Heat-Line was established in 1988, and has been based out of Algonquin Highlands for the duration of its existence. Currently employing 27 staff, the company manufactures advanced self-regulating freeze protection systems for pipes and roofs, including job-ready in-pipe and on-pipe solutions such as Retro-Line for water lines and drains, job-ready roof de-icing systems, and SR- self-regulating, cut-to-length heating cable.

In 2000, Heat-Line opened their assembly plant in a forest setting adjacent to Stanhope Airport, located in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands. According to their website, the growth of Heat-Line continues, and has resulted in expanding the existing location to include a Research and Development facility, adjacent to the current location in Algonquin Highlands.

With unpredictable winters and seasons ahead, the business is booming year-round.

"I am honoured to continue the legacy that Lorne and Robin established in partnership with Brent and Laura," said the new president, Matthew Roberts. "The enduring strength of Heat-Line lies in its people and in the principles of service, innovation, and quality that guide every decision. Our strategic vision is to expand the company's market presence, advance both core and emerging technologies, and deliver sustainable growth that creates lasting value for customers, partners, and the community."

Roberts previously held the role of operations manager, with Brent Heise as sales manager and technical support, and Laura Roberts as the office manager, focusing on administration, communications, and customer support.

"This has been in the works for quite a few years," said Posti. "They're the next generation, and they've been involved their whole lives. It was such a natural transition, it was only a matter of time."

For more information on the leadership transition, as well as the services the business provides, visit www.heatline.com.

As the founders are still involved and still actively promoting the importance and value of Canadian-made products, they are thrilled to step aside from day-to-day operations, making room for the new leaders to continue to grow. "I could not be more pleased," said founder Lorne Heise, "to see our dream moving forward with our family and the next generation."

Master Gardeners plant for the future

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While it may seem like the leaves are beginning to fall as we creep closer to winter months, Master Gardener Shelley Fellows believes this is one of the best times of year to plant. "The ground is still warm," she said. "We only need four weeks for the plants to take root, and they will be ready to bloom in the spring."

That's why, upon hearing the news that the Haliburton County Master Gardeners had received an impressive grant through the Seniors Community Grant Program, they went right to work.

This program will be a combination classroom and hands-on workshop, specifically designed for seniors over the age of 55 who are interested in learning more about sustainable gardening in the Haliburton Highlands. Slated for Oct. 18, the fall gardening workshop will be held at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, before moving over to Hyland Crest Long-Term Care for the hands-on portion of the workshop, planting seeds and bulbs in the newly dubbed "Betty's Garden" at the entrance of Hyland Crest.

"When we first went to Hyland Crest and said what we would like to do, that we would like to honour current and past residents of the home, we said we were looking for a name," said Fellows. "They all immediately said 'Betty'."

Betty moved into Hyland Crest at 98 years old. She was an avid gardener, and spent the last four years of her life applying her knowledge of the natural world to the spaces she inhabited. "What a lovely spirit," mused Fellows. "Someone who was very independent and embodied what we all want to be as we grow up."

For the workshop, the Master Gardeners needed to put together components of education, as well as encouraging safe, physical exercise and social connections. "The Seniors Community Grant Program is helping protect the well-being of seniors by providing opportunities to stay active, connected and engaged," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "We are honoured to support the Haliburton County Master Gardeners initiative, which will allow older adults to socialize, learn new skills and promote wellness."

MPP Laurie Scott echoed Cho's sentiments. "I'm thrilled to see our community come together to support this wonderful initiative for seniors in Haliburton County," she said. "Sustainable gardening not only helps our environment, but it also fosters a sense of connection and wellbeing for our seniors. This program is a great example of how we can grow both our gardens and our communities."

The workshop will start at noon on Oct. 18 at the Minden Cultural Centre, and will wrap up by 3:30 p.m. at Hyland Crest. A dedication ceremony will take place at 3:15 p.m. at Hyland Crest for "Betty's Garden".

The day will include a light lunch, as well as a number of senior-specific giveaway prizes. Fellows encourages individuals to register in advance as capacity is limited. Registration can be completed by either visiting the Haliburton County Master Gardener website at www.haliburtonmastergardener.com or by calling 705-488-2613. No prior gardening experience or tools are necessary; the free program will supply all of the skills development, advice, and tools needed free of charge.

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Fallen firefighter remembered as local hero

from page 1

son described as his "true career."

But the thing he cared about most, and the source of his greatest pride and purpose,was being a volunteer firefighter for the Dysart Fire Department, Chris said. It was a job he eventually rose to the top of, but it's also, sadly, what ended up taking his life.

"He died of cancer, but he got that cancer over 15 years of dropping everything he was doing to help his neighbour," Chris said. "And do it knowing the risks involved and knowing that was a possibility. And then to have someone recognize the significance of his death, it really hits home."

Mike began his firefighting career in the early 1990s, his son said, recalling his father's steady and respected rise through the ranks.

"He worked his way up from, like, just volunteer firefighter to captain," his son said. "He was very respected, very well liked," Chris recalled, adding that Mike's absence is still keenly felt at the department.

Even while battling cancer, Mike's dedication never wavered. His son talked about a time during a quite hectic Canada Day, a day of multiple, serious call-outs. The type of day where the pager "did not stop going off," Chris explained. A structure fire broke out, and the department was stretched thin already due to the long weekend. Knowing his father was off duty and sick with cancer, Chris hesitated at first but made the call.

"I said, 'Dad, like, we need you. We need you to do the desk. We just need you to run the radio. Are you feeling up to it?'" Chris recalled.

Late fire chief Michael Iles was honoured in Ottawa having his name added to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The Iles family received a medal and helmet in honour of the former fire chief and in recognition of his sacrifice. /submitted

And without hesitation, Mike replied: "Yeah, absolutely, no problem."

As Chris and fellow firefighters got closer to the scene, they heard a familiar voice come on the radio. It was Mike.

"We just knew everything was going to be okay," Chris said.

Chris also described a time when mandatory firefighting training was introduced, something that his father was grandfathered out of due to his time of service. But he did it anyway.

"He thought, 'I can't just ask somebody to do it when I haven't done it myself,'" his son explained. He even showed up to the training with a yellow helmet, which is the same as a new recruit, because he "didn't want to be treated differently because he was a chief."

The shared service also deepened the father-son relationship. On one memorable call, Mike, acting as commander, had to order his own son into a burning building.

"It felt different because it wasn't just the commander asking me," Chris reflected. "It was my dad, but we had trust in each other. And that was totally fine."

The mutual trust allowed them to carry out their duties without a moment's hesitation, a bond that only the fire department could have forged.

"The fire department really made us closer than we ever would have been," Chris said.

Mike died of small-cell lung cancer, a disease widely recognized as related to firefighting. His son was candid about the presumptive legislation that links certain cancers to the profession, noting that his father's cancer was a separate, secondary illness to a previously well-managed prostate cancer. This fact underscored the nature of his father's sacrifice.

"He gave his life for this community and protecting people," Chris said, noting that his dad did so "knowing the risks involved and knowing that that was a possibility."

Mike's sacrifice will forever be remembered by having his name etched in the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Ottawa. His name stands as a permanent tribute, not just for his family, but for the entire community he served.

Chris said the experience of attending the memorial and seeing other children who lost their parents in the line of duty gave him a new perspective on the dangers of the job, especially firefighter-related cancers.

"It is something that it absolutely weighs on me more than I probably let on to anybody else," Chris said. "And it's something that my family definitely knows about."

The family wishes to express their profound gratitude to both the Minden Hills Fire Department and Algonquin Highlands Fire Services, for spearheading the efforts to have Mike's name added to the memorial.

Mike died on Nov. 26, 2022. He was 61.

Thanksgiving Recycling

Sort your recycling into containers and papers!

Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Aluminum foil and trays | Metal food cans | Plastic cups (empty and clean) | Plastic bottles (caps can be left on)

Recycling for Papers

Boxboard | Paper egg cartons | Paper cups (empty and clean) | Brown paper bags | Paper towel rolls

Garbage

Dirty paper, plastic, Styrofoam plates | Plastic cutlery | Plastic liner bags | Dirty napkins | Food waste (consider composting)

Did you know? Dysart ratepayers can drop-off household batteries, clothing (including clothing that is ripped or stained), electronics, and scrap metal, at all five of Dysart's waste disposal sites.
Visit **www.dysartetal.ca/recycle** for more information.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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Herlihey Park opens to the public

Councillors Angela Lewis and Ruth Strong, along with Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall, Councillor Cam MacKenzie, Mayor and Warden Dave Burton, Carol Marcus and MPP Laurie Scott pose for a photo during the ribbon cutting ceremony. Burton said: "Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Carol and Karl Marcus, who donated this seven-acre property in memory of their parents, Beatrice and Harold Herlihey, the legacy of this site continues in a new and meaningful way. Herlihey Park stands not only as a beautiful public space - with trails and a public beach - but also as a tribute to the generations who worked here and the families who built their lives around it."/submitted

Inside out; exploring plein air works across the county

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Where in the world would you find Farquhar Creek in Wilberforce cascading next to the Hawk Lake Log Chute?

The two destinations have many miles between them, but in the Rails End Gallery, they're side by side.

In the En Plein Air show currently displayed at the local gallery, 20 finalists were selected to be displayed amongst 67 entries submitted. The pieces currently not hung up are available for virtual viewing at www.railsendgallery.com.

"I'm really pleased with the variety we received," said gallery curator Laurie Jones. "This place is more than lakes and trees and sky, though they are compelling subjects."

En plein air literally translates to being outside, in the open air, a movement that gained popularity in the mid-1800s, as paints and canvases became more transportable.

The Group of Seven were masters at the art form, using wooden plaques and oil paints to capture the living essence of the rugged outdoors. And it has evolved since then, of course. As landscapes have gradually urbanized and artist capacity has become limited, the subjects and styles of the pieces have shifted with growing pains.

But it presents the outdoors in a whole new light.

In the current gallery exhibit, while there is a steady weaving backdrop of living, breathing forests, there are also restaurants, sign posts, campfires, and one bright orange caboose; subjects that have plunked themselves into the setting, and have become natural components of the great outdoors, in this space we call home.

Caboose Bike Hub by James Brown depicts the iconic orange train car in Head Lake Park. The painting won the County Tourism award at the plein air show. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The pieces each needed to be created either this year or last, and Jones noted that the number one criteria was that the painting must depict some space in Haliburton County. "I think we're onto something with this idea," she noted, referencing that many artists who submitted works are dabbling in the spontaneous outdoor art endeavours for the first time.

With so much interest abound, Jones has created a small booklet for plein air enthusiasts. "You already love hiking, paddling, or simply being outside…" opens the book. " ... plein air painting is a natural next step toward creatively connecting with your surroundings."

The booklet goes on to encourage artists to press pause, to be present. It provides tips and tricks for plein air, as well as a tool at the back of the book to use as a frame when capturing an expansive backdrop. "There are no mistakes," reads the booklet, "only lessons."

The booklet will be available via Rails End social media channels, or at the gallery itself.

While many artists take their work indoors to complete the piece, Jones noted that the piece can lose its authenticity if that is done. "It's all about spontaneity," she said, referencing the dedication to capturing a moment in time; the light on the waters just so, dips in the sun ever-changing.

It's an art form that is not for the faint of heart. With the nature of the great outdoors ever-changing, ever-shifting, no two scenes will ever be the same. So to capture that moment in time, it takes a certain level of bravery, shared Jones.

The En Plein Air Haliburton show was supported by the County of Haliburton and Haliburton County Development Corporation. To view all pieces or to see the winners of the submissions, visit www.railsend.com. The show will be on display in the gallery until Nov. 8. "It's really just all about being outside," said Jones. "It's a new way to experience the outdoors."

30 years of Glecoff's

Glecoff's Family Store spent this past weekend celebrating 30 years in business. The iconic downtown Haliburton shop started in 1995, and has grown and adapted to the needs to the community over the years. Pictured, former owners Andy and Sandra Glecoff with Amy and Clay Glecoff, the present owners. /submitted

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: **Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

TIME: **9:05 AM**

LOCATION: **Take notice that the public meeting for official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Applications:
Lands of 5029636 Ontario Inc. – File No. D14-ZB-2025-015

Purpose and Effect: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to rezone the subject property from Highway Commercial (CH) zone to Highway Commercial (CH-XX) exception zone to permit the use of shipping containers and reduced structure setbacks on the subject property.

Location: 1159 Kennisis Lake Road, Part Lot 6, Concession 4, Part 9, Plan 19R-5229, in the Geographic Township of Guilford, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Lands of Hutchings – File No. D14-ZB-2025-016

Purpose and Effect: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to rezone the subject property from Rural Type 1 (RU1) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) to Rural Type 1-XX (RU1-XX) exception zone, Rural Residential – XX (RR-XX) exception zone and Environmental Protection zone.

The zoning by-law amendment is a condition of consent H-008/25.

Location: 1184 Parish Line Road, Part Lot 18, Concession 5, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Lands of Haliburton Lumber and Enterprise 1587256 Ontario Inc.
File No. D14-ZB-2025-017

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment would permit a temporary zoning by-law amendment in the Highway Commercial (CH) Zone. The temporary zoning would permit the use of a Day Nursery and applicable zone provisions for a maximum of three (3) years on the subject lands from the date the by-law is passed with an opportunity to further extend the use beyond the three (3) years pursuant to section 39(3) of the Planning Act.

Location: 5152 County Road 21, Part Lots 12 and 13, Concession 8, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7th day of October 2025.
Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

September
By: Josie Morrison and Ivy Tofflemire

The Redhawks at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School are starting off strong with activities this year!

Sports are the highlight of our September, with seven teams kicking it off to start with success. The drama club is beginning their very first production. The choir is full-fledged in action. Our leadership students are hard at work as well.

Our sports teams this month include many varieties: the varsity golf team, junior boys soccer, senior boys volleyball, junior boys volleyball, junior girls basketball, senior girls basketball, and cross country runners! There are also activities in store for our individual-fitness-esque students. The Hawks Nest runs after school on Tuesdays to Thursdays, 3:15 until 4:30 with late buses available with sign up. This is possible only because of our awesome staff. Thanks to our teachers for volunteering their valuable time to us!

Our fabulous drama club this year has started their production of their first play. They have been working on, *Puffs: Or, Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*. Rehearsals are already underway, with auditions previous during the first weeks of September. Their play will be performed during December. We are so excited to come support!

Our Interact organization has begun as well, with their annual conference at Camp Medeba for leadership and planning events. This consisted of team building activities, meetings, and brainstorming events. We are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing team planning great things for us.

Madame Mardus has been running our music club with our famously-talented Hawks! With choir gatherings happening consistently to improve and practice, they are hopefully having a performance soon! We would love to see it!

Our student-leadership class were hard at work planning festive and fun activities for our school. On September 12, we had a school-wide scavenger hunt to help familiarize new students with different locations. On September 24, we had "On Wednesdays We Wear Pink" Day! Overall, our school spirit is through the roof!

To finish off the month, Mr. Longo and his team are planned our iconic Terry Fox Run on Sept. 30. Along with wearing red and white for school spirit, we are took our usual loop up through the college and back. We are gratefully accepting donations in cash, or online at School Cash Online! Anything you can donate will go towards our $4,000 goal.

There have been lots of activities this month, with many more good ones to come! Keep an eye out for our jam-packed October schedule.

The leadership class at Hal High is a bilingual class. Please see below for the French version of September's events.

Septembre
Par: Alivia Brown, Claudia Nienajadlo, et Addyson Parish

Ce mois de rentrée a été chargé et riche en activités au Hal High! Des premiers matchs sportifs de la saison à la reprise des activités des clubs, en passant par les collectes de fonds pour les événements scolaires et les journées de l›esprit d'école, sans oublier bien sûr les nombreuses activités d'apprentissage. La transition après l'été sera toujours difficile, mais les élèves ont déjà prouvé que l'année scolaire 2025-2026 sera mémorable.

Les sports ont démarré en force : football masculin, volley-ball masculin, basket-ball féminin, golf et cross-country, tous en compétition et s'entraînant intensément. Après une année de pause, l'équipe du lycée masculine de football a repris le terrain ce mois-ci avec détermination, renforçant son équipe lors des entraînements et des matchs et luttant contre les inconséquents de la météo automnale.

Au gymnase, les équipes de volley-ball junior et senior masculines ont débuté leur saison avec des objectifs ambitieux. Leur énergie a attiré un public nombreux à leurs matchs à domicile, témoins de nombreux coups puissants et de victoires de la part de ces garçons.

Les équipes de basket-ball junior et senior féminines se préparent également pour une saison prometteuse. Avec une activité intense et la passion des nouvelles élèves de troisième pour ce sport, ces groupes de filles dynamiques se préparent quotidiennement à relever les défis à venir.

En matière de sports individuels, les golfeurs et les coureurs savent que la persévérance est essentielle. L'équipe de golf a profité du soleil de septembre pour s'affronter chaque semaine afin d'améliorer son swing. Les coureurs de cross-country, quant à eux, ont couru du lever au coucher du soleil, si l'école le permettait, pour se préparer aux prochaines compétitions. Leur engagement est une source d'inspiration pour toute l'école.

Le club Interact a commencé l'année en planifiant des actions pour l›école et la communauté. Grâce à des opportunités de bénévolat et à des projets d'équipe, les élèves sont impatients de contribuer davantage chaque année.

Le club de théâtre a également ouvert ses portes ce mois-ci, accueillant des élèves intéressés par le théâtre, l'équipe technique et le spectacle. Ils ont travaillé dur et mémorisé leur texte pour leur production de décembre de *PUFFS*.

Hal High s'engage à bâtir une communauté exceptionnelle et a déjà lancé des projets prometteurs pour l'année à venir. Grâce à la collaboration entre la classe de leadership et les enseignants, nous créons un environnement scolaire inclusif, stimulant et agréable pour tous.

La Course Terry Fox a toujours réuni élèves et personnel, courant ou marchant ensemble pour une bonne cause: collecter des fonds pour la recherche contre le cancer tout en honorant l'héritage inspirant de Terry. Depuis 29 ans, notre école participe et s'efforce de récolter davantage de fonds chaque année. Un grand merci à M. Longo pour son dévouement à l'organisation de l'événement. "J'espère voir chaque élève participer à cette communauté scolaire unie," a-t-il déclaré.

De nombreuses activités passionnantes ont eu lieu ce mois, et les élèves attendent avec impatience de vivre encore plus d'émotions au fil de l'année!

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Play ball!

The Junior and Senior Redhawk girls faced off against St. Mary's this past week. The Juniors won 50-16 and the seniors won 48-11 against the visiting team. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Bellydancer to offer eight week series of classes

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Victoria Kramkowski is currently looking for participants who are interested in an eight week series of bellydancing lessons in Carnarvon. /Submitted

Victoria Kramkowski hopes to spread her love of bellydancing, one move at a time.

After hosting some belly dancing workshops, Kramkowski says that she has seen great potential in the dancers in Haliburton County.

In the past, Kramkowski's workshops have happened on single days. While the courses have been received well, Kramkowski has identified a demand to expand on the skills learned in her workshops.

In January of 2026, Kramkowski is planning on offering an eight week series of classes at Haliburton Highlands Brewing, located in Carnarvon at 15543 Highway 35.

The eight week series would allow participants to learn and practice movements while working towards performing a bellydancing routine at the end.

The classes are for everyone that is interested in bellydancing, says Kramkowski, especially those who are inexperienced when it comes to dancing entirely. Bellydancing is for everyone and is a great form of exercise and way to improve your body's flexibility.

Kramkowski says that this winter is the perfect time to offer the eight weeks of classes.

"You want to have a reason to get out. You want to try something new," said Kramkowski. "Sometimes we hibernate in the winter but it is a nice time to try that new thing you have been thinking of."

Every session will involve going over dance moves that students have learned, while building off of each other. Dancing is accompanied by music, and Kramkowski will also be discussing the history of bellydancing.

While every student will have the skills and movesets to perform, Kramkowski says that performing for an audience is not a requirement for the class.

This class is also one way for Kramkowski to work on establishing a bellydancing troupe in the county. She says that if people are interested, she hopes to continue bellydancing with interested local dancers.

Once a bellydancing troupe has formed, Kramkowski envisions them dancing for the public at events like Rotaryfest and Colourfest.

"It's really important to support community endeavours and to get together," she said.

"What this session is, is it will give everybody the opportunity to develop as new bellydancers," said Kramkowski.

"There will be a lot of new friends made," she hopes. "The people that come to it love to watch each other dance and support the women dancing alongside them."

The price of the eight sessions will be $120. Women of all ages and dancing experience are encouraged to participate in the experience.

For those interested, Kramkowski says to call Haliburton Highlands Brewing Company to reserve a spot in the program. Spaces are very limited and there is a minimum of four people needed for the program to run.

Kramkowski's upcoming bellydancing courses will begin on Saturday Jan. 10 and will be occurring every second Saturday until April from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will also be a break in March.

"Bellydancing is for everyone. From absolute beginners to experienced dancers," said Kramkowski. "It will be a fun and supportive space to learn something new and move our bodies during the winter."

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www.highlandsoperastudio.com | Tickets can also be purchased at the door

Tiny, off–grid cabins make for a perfect fall getaway in Highlands

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The Haliburton Highlands has transformed into a breathtaking tapestry of crimson, gold, and orange as forests begin their annual transformation, and for the "fall peepers" looking to embed themselves in the autumn spectacle, Cabinscape's tiny, off-grid cabins might just be for you.

For more than eight years, Cabinscape has been offering a unique solution for those who want to immerse themselves in the backcountry of some of the province's most spectacular forests without the complexities of camping.

Husband and wife team, John Loerchner and Laura Mendes, have built Cabinscape from a single cabin on a patch of land in eastern Ontario to a fleet of 30 tiny, off-grid cabins scattered across the province, with a large concentration in the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve.

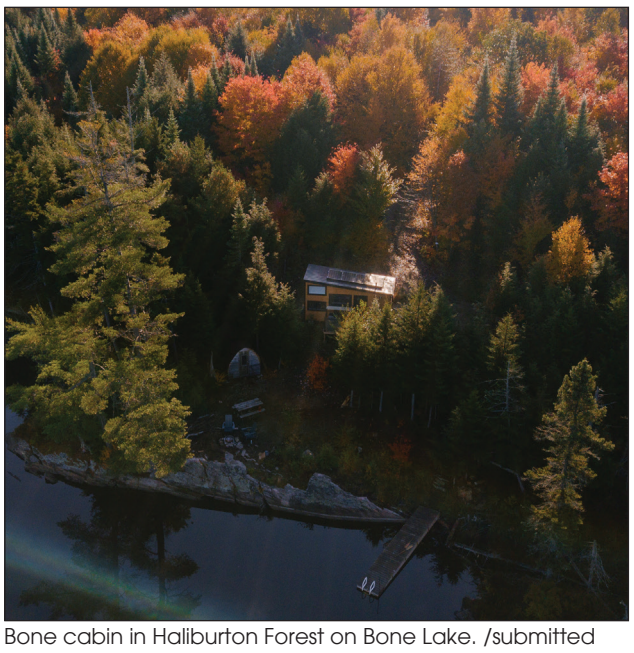
The company's roots trace back to the couple's love for backcountry camping. After having their daughter, they wanted to continue their wilderness adventures, but found the traditional experience challenging with a young child.

"When we had our daughter, we really wanted to still get her out into the wilderness experiencing, you know, isolated, beautiful nature scapes," Mendes said in a telephone interview. "But we didn't feel quite comfortable taking her into the interior of Algonquin.

So they searched for a middle ground, a comfortable cabin that still offered the feeling of being deep in the wilderness.

"But we couldn't really find anything that really, you know, checked off all the boxes for us," the Cabinscape co-founder said.

And from there, Cabinscape was born with its first tiny, solar-powered cabin. The company now has 30 properties, which were built to be mobile and fabricated in a factory, spread out in secluded locations throughout Ontario.



Bone cabin in Haliburton Forest on Bone Lake. /submitted

The partnership with Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve has been a major success for Cabinscape. Several years ago, after hearing about the company's unique concept, Haliburton Forest reached out to partner with them. The collaboration began with two cabins and has since expanded to 12.

"It's been a labour of love, and we just love Haliburton in general. It's so beautiful," Mendes said. "Everyone often thinks about the Muskokas as cottage country, but there's just so much beauty in Haliburton.

"Our Haliburton cabins are among our most popular cabins out of our fleet, because of all of the experiences, outdoor experiences that they can do, we find our guests are not just people that want to come and sit in the cabin. They want to get out, they want to adventure," Mendes said.

Cabinscape offers three different levels of remoteness for its guests in Haliburton Forest, allowing visitors to "choose their own adventure."

There are low-remote cabins that are easily accessible by car and located near the Haliburton Forest Basecamp, which includes a restaurant, convenience store, and the popular Wolf Centre. Then there are medium-remote cabins that offer a balance of seclusion and convenience, while high-remote cabins are situated deep within the forest, on untouched, non-motorized lakes.

"If you want a cabin that's really close to the Wolf Centre, and you just want to wake up and have someone cook for you, and you can just walk over to the local restaurant there, versus one of our high-remote cabins, where you're pretty much out there and it takes, a good 20 minutes to get back to basecamp," Mendes said. "There are lots of options for everybody."

Mendes said Cabinscape's most popular cabin also happens to be in Haliburton Forest. The Bone Cabin is a medium-remote property on a private, untouched lake, known for its beautiful sunset views, she said.

Cabinscape's success is fuelled by a desire to make the outdoors accessible to everyone. The cabins are equipped with solar panels for power and propane furnaces for heating. In the winter, running water from lake sources is turned off, but potable water is provided. The goal is to provide a nature-focused experience while still offering creature comforts, Mendes explained.

"We really encourage our guests to get out and check out the local shops in town," she said.

Cabinscape has even created packages with local businesses, like Abbey Gardens, to help support the community and give guests a comprehensive travel experience that goes beyond just the cabin.

"Haliburton is just an adventure playground," Mendes said. "What a great opportunity to go on a fall colours road trip, stop at our cabins, and get out to downtown Haliburton to check out a cafe and grab a pumpkin spice latte."

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	7			3			2	
		8	5				6	
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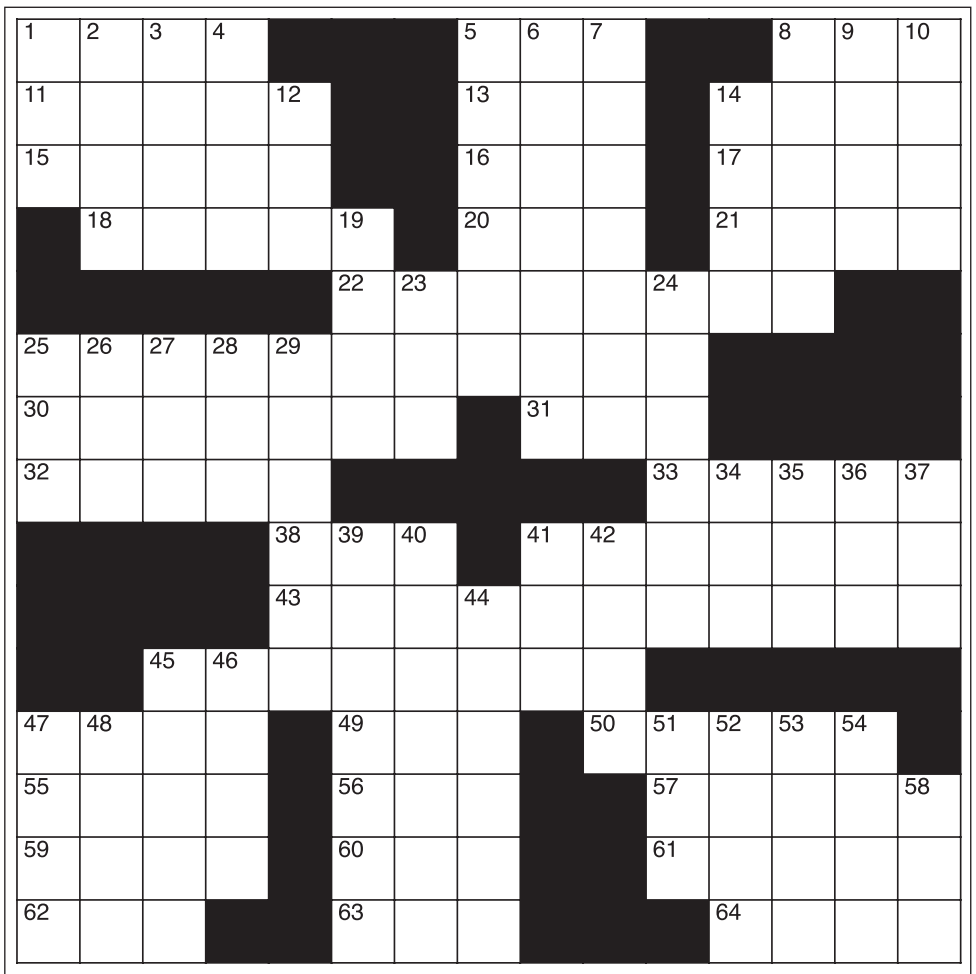
Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 22



CLUES ACROSS
1. Comedic actor Rogen
5. Bits per inch
8. Tire pressure measurement
11. Angels great Mike
13. Own (Scottish)
14. Notable FI racing team
15. Upper bract of grass
16. Tax collector
17. Electronic counter-countermeasures
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Skeletal muscle
21. Popular fish type
22. Salts of acetic acid
25. Arriving early
30. Worded
31. Single Lens Reflex
32. Amphibians
33. Warm greeting
38. Belonging to a thing
41. Segmented worm
43. Concerns
45. Audacious
47. Wings
49. Type of drug
50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles
55. Island close to the U.S.
56. ÒTo the __ degreeÓ
57. Daniel __, French composer
59. A way to march
60. Where golfers begin
61. Spiritual leader
62. Of she
63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN
1. Engine additive
2. Amounts of time
3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
4. Color properties
5. One who hands over
6. Thieves of the sea
7. Put in
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Pouches
10. Systems, doctrines, theories
12. Greek alphabet letter
14. Greek goddess of youth
19. Satisfy
23. Partly digested food
24. Dictator
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. A major division of geological time
28. Angry
29. St. Francis of __
34. Romanian monetary unit
35. Stale
36. Go quickly
37. Commercials
39. Canadian city
40. One who slices
41. Perform perfectly
42. Nest of pheasants
44. Tactile sensations
45. Sword
46. Climactic
47. Adrenocorticotrophin
48. FishermanÕs tool
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

Answers on page 22

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12pm – 3:30pm
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Planting follows at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Donald Harvey Gillespie

Passed away peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 in his 88th year.

Dear husband of Betty (nee Williams). Loving father of Karen and Paul and grandfather of William. Beloved brother of Hazel (Charles) Oliver, Joan (Jim) Leo, Dale Gillespie, Catherine Gillespie and predeceased by Stewart (Joyce) Gillespie and Jean (Fred) Mantle. He will be remembered fondly by his nephews, nieces and many friends.

Don's careers spanned drafting at Garette Manufacturing and Karma Industries, running his own building construction company and real estate with Country Wide and Remax in Minden. He spent years attending the Minden Bible Church and Norland Pioneer Baptist Church. Generous and always willing to offer a helping hand to his friends and family, Don enjoyed the outdoors and his hobby of oil painting throughout his life.

He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and those who knew him. Our thanks to Ross Memorial Hospital's Medical Unit Team and to Extendicare Kawartha Lakes for their excellent care.

Friends are invited to a Graveside Service to Celebrate Don's Life at the Pine Grove Cemetery, 5 Hilton's Point Rd., Norland, Ontario K0M 2L0 on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 1:00 pm. A reception will follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. PS 23:6

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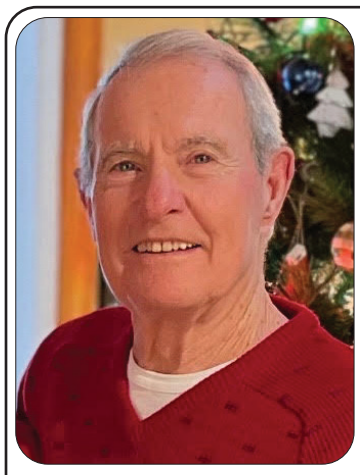

Robert "Bob" MacNaull

Resident of Haliburton

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert James MacNaull, who left us peacefully on October 1st, at the age of 85.

Bob was a beloved husband, whose kindness and laughter left a mark on all who knew him. Bob is survived by his loving wife, Anne, and his children, Stephen (Kerry), Marla, and Michael (Kelli). He was a devoted grandpa who was cherished by his grandchildren, Alex, Grace, Shae (Owen), Max, and Benn.

Bob was born in Brockville, ON, on April 29th, 1940, to James and Jessie MacNaull. He was the younger brother of Donald (Chris) (predeceased). He is also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Bob enjoyed coaching youth baseball, hockey, curling, and fishing in the wildlife with his friends. But most of all, Bob enjoyed spending time with his family.

Bob's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around him will never be forgotten. He will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know him.

Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to call for a service in Bob's Memory on Friday, October 10, 2025, from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the **HALIBURTON CURLING CLUB**, 730 Mountain St, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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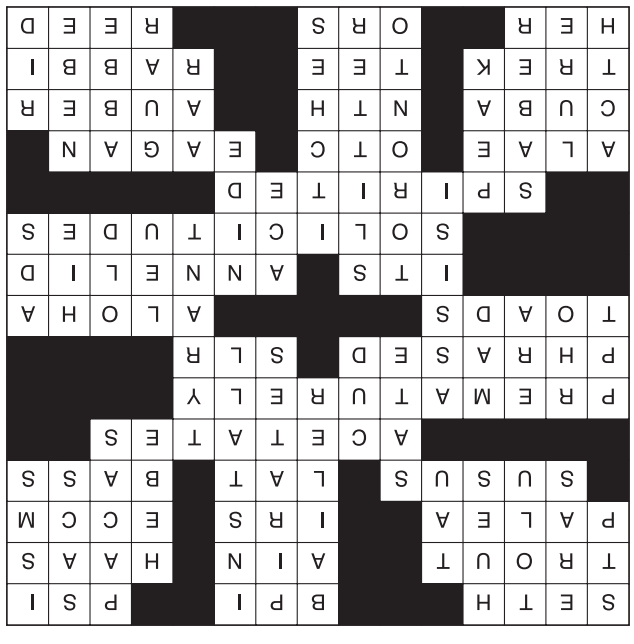

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Who's running for what, and where
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994

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Health Services Board backs bed consolidation

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The Acting Health Services Board has agreed with the principle of consolidating the county's acute care beds in Haliburton.

In an 11-3 vote at Wednesday night's meeting at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Minden, the board voted in favour of Bev MacDuff's motion to

- consolidate up to 19 acute care beds at the Haliburton Hospital
- provide five to seven stabilization beds at Hyland Crest
- provide 24-hour emergency care at the Hyland Crest site

"It starts the negotiation process," MacDuff says. "You can't negotiate when you don't know what you're negotiating... If you can't accomplish all of it, let's try to accomplish some of it."

Several board members had problems with the second and third part of the motion but agreed that the motion moved the process forward.

One of the biggest problems facing the board is that can only spend the $10.6-million approved by the Ministry of Health last December. This money must also pay for the construction of 30 long-term care beds at the Haliburton site and the upgrading of Hyland Crest.

Given these financial restrictions, it seems unlikely the board would be able to afford even five stabilization beds. Both the executive director of the Haliburton Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit, Marshall Elliott, and the executive director of St. Joseph's Hospital say that with present funding, "it's not doable."

"You need to be realistic about what you can afford," Lussing said.

The Ministry is trying to reduce the number of beds across the province, he said. "There's an axiom we use: if you build a bed it's a filled bed... The danger of (using the term stabilization beds) is people will think it will be a semi-hospital. Every urgent care facility will have them but they're not true in-patient beds."

(In past discussions, the Ministry has talked of having an

Please turn to page 14

Forest owners postpone deadline

Trails will be open and winter businesses are "ready and raring to go"

by STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Reporter

Local business owners are breathing easier this week following the Haliburton Forest Owners' Association's decision to back down — for now — on its threat to close off private trails this winter to snowmobilers and skiers.

The Nov. 1st deadline to close the trails was being used to put pressure on the provincial government to reinstate in some form the Managed Forest Tax Rebate program. In a press release issued Wednesday, HFOA member Peter Schleifenbaum announced the postponement of the deadline until Nov. 1st of 1995.

"Recognizing the combined interests of the community and the economic losses that may occur... coupled with the apparent agenda of this government, the association resolved to provide to the community a window to express its concerns for remedies to the government and decided to extend the deadline," wrote Schleifenbaum, co-owner of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve.

In the statement, Schleifenbaum accused the province of attempting "to shift the promotion of winter activities (especially snowmobiling) and related tourism to (Northern Ontario)" and of being "uninterested in the concerns of the local snowmobiling industry and its impact on the economies of Central Ontario."

The press release also said that the forest owners' motivation behind the extension was "to demonstrate their concern for their community, which they are not willing to penalize for this government's incompetence and hidden agendas."

With the threat of trail closures now behind them for this season at least, local businesses who rely on winter tourism are "raring and ready to go," said Brian Watts, president of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA), which despite having contingency plans in place if the closure occurred, would have been seriously affected by the shut down.

"Naturally we are very pleased with the decision and that cooler heads prevailed," Watts said. "I was hoping it would happen because you never want to look to the worst."

With the annual International Snowmobiler's Show being held last weekend in Markham, the timing for the announcement could not have been better, said Watts. "We are getting ready for the show so that was part of the urgency for us and now we'll have a positive story to tell to people," said Watts prior to the weekend show.

He said that the HCSA will maintain its support of the forest owners and have offered to help in formulating "some sort of plan for after the next (provincial) election to get the forest owners on a level playing field."

Gloria Carnochan of Backwoods Marina, who recently launched a letter-writing campaign to members of parliament and Premier Bob Rae, said that while she is "ecstatic" about the forest owners' decision, "just because the pressure has been taken off of us as business owners doesn't mean we should take the pressure off the government" to find a solution to the owners' dilemma. "We are grateful for the decision made by property owners but we hope the public will continue to write letters and do what is in their power to get this issue resolved."

Doug Kaufmann, manager of Kennisis Lake Marina, said that with the threat of the closure no longer hanging over their heads, "it's certainly going to relieve our customers as far as doubts of whether or not they should purchase or rent a snowmobile. It should definitely help our sales."

Winter bookings for the marina, he added, "are way down. Usually by now we have a fair

Please turn to page 5

UPHILL BATTLE: Students running in Cardiff Public School's cross-country meet on Friday make the lon the final hill of the course. Children from all of the county's seven elementary schools took part in the con Pictures of the winners can be found on Page 8.

Accusations and "dirty politics" disgust Glamorgan ree

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Glamorgan Reeve Bev MacDuff is disgusted that her husband has been publicly accused of stealing her competitors' campaign signs.

The Minden OPP received an "anonymous tip" that Bradley MacDuff had stolen more than 60 campaign signs and stored them in their garage. Last Tuesday, Mr. MacDuff was stopped by a police officer and told of the accusation. Although the officer did not have a search warrant, Mr. MacDuff invited him to search all the buildings at the MacDuffs' Gooderham home. No signs were found.

"It's a sad state of affairs when politics gets this bad and dirty," says Mrs. MacDuff, who is campaigning to retain her position as reeve. "I'm more disgusted than anything else to know someone would go to this degree in a municipal election... This is horrendous."

Last week, one of Mrs. MacDuff's opponents, Councillor Lorrie Saville, phoned the Echo to say that more than 60 campaign signs had been stolen. Saville said rumours had been circulating about who was responsible, although no one had been charged by the police.

The timing couldn't be worse for the MacDuffs. "How convenient it gets in the paper the day the police want to se premises," Mrs. MacI "My husband told t didn't need a searcl because he had nothin

All last week, her h asked about the s whether he stole the people in Haliburton to him about it. It wa ly distressing beca band is a mem Glamorgan Poli

Please

A FAMILY AFFAIR: Bryan Brown presents the Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award to Ray and [illegible] of Westside Jug City.

Westside Jug wins Business of

by STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Reporter

They are the perfect example of what it takes for a business to survive in the fast-changing, make-or-break 1990s. A strong business sense and devotion to the community are among the many reasons why the Moore family's Westside Jug City has stayed on top against all odds and circumstances. Those are also some of the attributes that earned them the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Business Award of the Year.

What began with just 700 square feet 14 years ago in Gravenhurst as a typical Mom and Pop operation called West Side Variety and Discount, the Westside Jug City franchise (under the parent company Oshawa Foods) arrived in the Highlands in 1985 and now has facilities in Minden, Haliburton, Bracebridge, Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls.

As social and business leaders in the region, Ray and Gloria Moore and their eight children (sons Brian, Keith and Scott, daughter Rawn and son-in-law Doug Brown all are involved in the business while son Daryl and his wife Kelly have opened a bowling alley on the floor below the Minden store) have contributed to just about every aspect of community life.

"No matter whether it was minor hockey, men's soccer, children's baseball, Santa Claus parades and high school scholarships, the Moore family and Westside Jug City always seemed to be there for all of us," said Bryan Brown in presenting the award.

For those reasons it was only a natural instinct for the community to rally around the family and help pick up the February fire d Hwy 35 locatio they were back ger and better months is a testa ly and the comm said Brown.

In a brief acc which she had composure, an Mrs. Moore t nity for its " some of the port of every for us."

Ray Moor first learne tried to figu said the co support aft heart ren weren't le think how in this c

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West Settlement Rd $579,000

Set on a private 17.42-acre parcel, this property offers a true escape into nature, complete with your own pond and direct frontage on a year-round municipal road. Enjoy tranquil views and indirect access to beautiful West Lake, just across the road perfect for canoeing, kayaking, or relaxing by the water.

1 | 3 | SE | 17.42 acres | MLS X12411405

Growler Lake — $1,488,000 — 4 / 5 — MLS X12236651

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kawartha Lakes — $1,479,000 — 3 / 3 — MLS X12182250

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Canning Lake — $924,900 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12146750

Long Lake — $899,990 — 2 / 6 — MLS X12176356

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $815,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12176356

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $795,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12169805

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Beech Lake — $799,900 — 2 / 2 — MLS X12250094

Opportunity *New Listing*

Minden Hills — $749,000 — 3 / 3 — MLS X12398280

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $725,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12347900

Kennisis River — $725,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12137708

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Trooper Lake — $699,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12236448

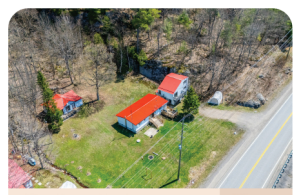
Opportunity *New Listing*

Little Cameron Lake — $698,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12416325

Eagle Lake Area — $659,900 — 1 / 2 — MLS X12095585

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Salerno Lake — $659,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12253284



Kushog Lake — $599,900 — 2 / 4 — MLS X12227417

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Wenona Lake — $578,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12367256

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Haliburton — $435,000 — 2 / 2 — MLS X12343741

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Opportunity *Price Refresh*

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MLS X12440835
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Fort Irwin
Haliburton Lake Road
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MLS X12198773
14.53 acres

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